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April 17, 2012

Lisa Jackson, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

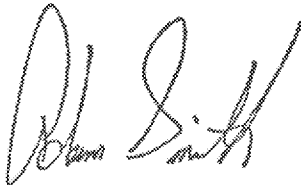
Dear Administrator Jackson,

I write today in support of your decision to conduct a scientific assessment to determine how future large-scale development projects could affect the Bristol Bay, Alaska watershed. The Bristol Bay fishery is a valuable natural resource. Its abundant and productive fishery supports prosperous commercial and sport fishing industries and thousands of other opportunities, which benefit Washington State.

Many Washingtonians understand and appreciate the Bristol Bay salmon fishery's contribution to our state's economy. In 2011, Washington State was home to 827 permit holders who fish commercially in Bristol Bay. Their work supports thousands of jobs in the area, including many Washington-based seafood processors, restaurants, grocers, chefs, and sport fishing businesses that depend on the bay's salmon fishery to sustain their businesses and livelihoods. Many of these citizens have expressed their strong support for protecting the Bristol Bay Fishery from potentially harmful industrial activities.

Sound science and public input are critical to developing the Watershed Assessment your agency is currently finalizing. Thank you again for your leadership on this issue. I support your efforts and will continue to closely monitor the assessment process. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff.

Sincerely,



Adam Smith
Member of Congress